

## REMARKS

This Amendment responds to the Office Action dated November 14, 2006 in which the Examiner rejected claims 67 and 68 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, and rejected claims 46-65 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e).

As indicated above, claims 67 and 68 have been amended to contain subject matter which is described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains to make and/or use the invention. Therefore, applicants respectfully request the Examiner withdraws the rejection to claims 67 and 68 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph.

Claims 46-65 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by *Lazaridis* (U.S. Patent No. 7,000,001).

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(e). The claims have been reviewed in light of the Office Action, and for reasons which will be set forth below, applicants respectfully request the Examiner withdraws the rejection to the claims and allows the claims to issue.

*Lazaridis* was filed on August 14, 2001 and is based upon a provisional application filed on September 12, 2000. The Examiner has rejected the claims based on Figure 5 of *Lazaridis*. Applicants respectfully point out that the provisional application filed on September 12, 2000 only contained Figures 1-3, where Figure 1 of the provisional application corresponds to a modified Figure 1 of the patent. Figure 2 of the provisional application corresponds to Figure 2 of the patent. Figure 3 of the provisional application corresponds to a modified Figure 4 of the patent. Thus, Figure 5, which the Examiner relied upon, has a priority date of August 14, 2001, which is after the priority date of the present application of September 28,

2000. Attached to this Amendment is a certified translation of one of the priority documents. Since *Lazaridis* is not a proper reference, applicants respectfully request the Examiner withdraws the rejection to claims 46-65 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e).

The prior art of record, which is not relied upon, is acknowledged. The references taken singularly or in combination do not anticipate or make obvious the claimed invention.

Thus it now appears that the application is in condition for reconsideration and allowance. Reconsideration and allowance at an early date are respectfully requested.

If for any reason the Examiner feels that the application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact, by telephone, the applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed within the currently set shortened statutory period, applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such extension of time may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

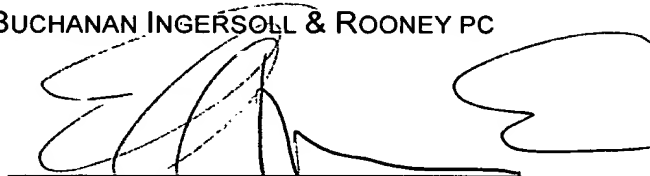
In the event that any additional fees are due with this paper, please charge  
our Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL & ROONEY PC

Date: February 13, 2007

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ellen Marcie Emas', written over a horizontal line.

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